

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace paragraph **[0023]** with the following amended paragraph:

**[0023]** As explained earlier, substances in the blood, especially red cells, hemoglobin can render the blood opaque to the near-IR radiation. Accordingly, the catheter 10 includes a deflector structure, preferably an arrangement of fins 20, which reacts with the force of flowing blood to deflect the side window laterally toward the region of the lumen wall facing the window, thereby minimizing the amount of blood interposed between the window and the lumen wall. In other words, the resultant of all forces acting on the deflector structure displaces the catheter laterally toward the wall of the blood vessel.